

ly ; this I do not accept as true in all cases, but in building church houses the billows sometimes reach almost to the top of our pile, and in such cases, a little of that kind of lubrication will enable our barque to sail smoothly into the harbor of financial safety, and you will never miss the oil you poured on the troubled waters ; and who can tell, but this little ship of Zion may some time float you or your children safely over a troubled sea.

The temple in the ancient city of Jerusalem was the symbolic heart of the nation that built it, and the time when the glory of God filled it marked the highest point of civilization reached in the history of Israelitish polity.

The church is the heart of our nation, and the songs that are sung within her sacred buildings soothe many a troubled soul, and the unseen hand that leads the wayfarer to her altars has wiped away many a tear unseen by a busy world, but these fruits of scattered kindnesses that all appreciate are born on the tree of righteousness, which the Psalmist says, "Shall flourish in the courts of our God." The house of the Lord is a sacred place in which consolation may be poured into hearts that are rent with sorrows, and souls that are broken with sin. But the Lord did not intend that divine grace should have to do alone with human misfortunes, for it is here that human joys may reach the heights of earthly splendor, for within her sacred precincts may be spoken the words that make two hearts but one, and all heaven's designs for human happiness be consummated.

It was Solomon's idea, that here should be the dwelling place of the Almighty, and that his glory should be the praise of all the earth. The church is the home, in which dwells the paternal powers of the more exalted Fatherhood, and in which assembles the children of the larger family, where the re-generated of all races are brothers and sisters. The doors of the Lord's house are ever open to the poor, and woe unto him who should close them against the unfortunate.

Since faithful Abraham wandered in the mountains of Judea, many kings and Empires have risen only to fall again and perish. But his sublime faith that anchors the soul of man to the most beautiful conception of the Heavenly Father is living to-day and crowns the earth with a halo of praise and thanksgiving. It may not be in our power to bring about all the reforms that we so much desire, and that are so sorely needed in the world, but like the blessed woman of old, may it be said of us, "We have done what we could."

While Turkish persecutions may go on, and the blood of Armenian Christians continue to flow, and the rumors of impending war float on the breeze bearing the most unpleasant message that Christians have to bear, and we be powerless to stop it, yet we can plant institutions for more heavenly teaching, and the little right that we are able to do, will descend to those who shall rule when we are gone, and in them the peace of God shall flourish on the earth, like the Psalmist's palm tree.

The religions of the nations of the past are the most trustworthy index of the domestic condition of the people. Like those that have gone before us, our nation too, will be known by its religion. And no work of the present generation will so amply record the highest and best impulses, the noblest thought, and purest motives, as the churches we build and dedicate to the Gospel "of peace on earth, and good will to man." No money will be so well spent as that which we place in institutions whose business it is to destroy sin and crime. The best legacy that we can leave to our children, is that which will be an inspiration to the best life in this world, and an immortal one in heaven. Yes, God shall dwell on the earth with his people. The shekinah shall abide on the mercy seat, and illuminate the way that leads to heaven.

#### THE JEWELS OF GOD.

F. B. M'CULLOUGH.

"And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels." Malachi 3 : 17.

Who shall be ushered into the glorious presence of the Lord of hosts in that day, but those who have been tested, tried, and proved to be more than mere common stones of earth, proved to be fit gems to sparkle in that casket containing the jewelry of God ?

"A book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name." The ones of whom the prophet here speaks feared the Lord. They had a heart not for that which is corruptible, but for that which is sacred and divine. These are they who will be claimed in that great day as the Jewels of God. Their splendor will be far greater than the splendor of all the glittering gems of earth. The glories of the sun and moon, the dazzling brilliancy of the stars as they sparkle in the heavens, are nothing compared to the splendors that await the children of God, when that great transformation takes place. Earth may have many things of beauty for human eyes to behold ; but

there are beauties awaiting the faithful, that will cause all the beauties of earth to fade into insignificance, as they burst in full view, and spread themselves in all their beauty and perfectness before the eyes of the redeemed. Yet it is written, "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither hath it entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

God regards those who fear and serve him as jewels. What an endearing figure! What a blessed thing to be a jewel in the eyes of God.

A jewel is a precious stone. In its natural state it lies hidden away beneath the surface of the earth, its hiding place is unknown, it must be sought after, found polished, and set. Then it is a bright glittering gem, a thing of great beauty for human beings to admire ; fit to deck the crown of a king. Floods often reveal these precious stones. The waters wash their bed of earth away, and when the sun shines out in all its brightness they glitter and sparkle in the sunlight, and are easily found. Mankind lies hidden away beneath corruption and sin until the storms of affliction and trial wash away this corruptible covering, and mankind becomes a thing of resplendent beauty, a glittering gem of inestimable value to the great king.

A jewel must undergo a great change before it becomes a thing of beauty ; it must undergo a process of cutting, paring and filing away until the desired shape is obtained, and then the true glory of the gem is revealed. We are purged and purified here in order to be fitted and prepared for the great change. We may think that we are unjustly afflicted and made to suffer in this world ; but we must bear up under many a blow, and feel the keen edge of the tool of affliction. If we were mere clay or common rock God would not deal with us as he does. But he takes us for jewels. He knows where to touch us with the sharp instrument for the most effective result. This process is often very painful to us, but by it God means no harm. It's only to fit and prepare us to become things of great beauty in the eyes of God. We are only preparing in this world for a place of future perfectness. We yet remain to be made up, "and to be put in place in the glorious regalia of the King." God has appointed a day when he will make up his jewels. Nor can we mistake what that day will be. It will be that day for which all other days were made ; that day when the Son of God will come from his blessed abode above ; that day when his coming will be hailed with delight by every